The Golden Primer

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MEIKLEJOHN & HOLDEN

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CHILDREN'S ROOM
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"THERE is no Royal Road to Learning" No! But there is always a common-sense **Method**; and there is a **Ladder.** The Ladder must have the shortest and easiest steps; and each step must be quite firm under the climber's foot. That is, in learning to read, he should learn **only one word** at a time; and each letter in that word must be **true** both **to eye** and **to ear.**

Teaching to read is the most difficult task the young Teacher has to face. The beginnings of all things are difficult; but this beginning is the most difficult of all beginnings. This arises from the two facts: that over 26 letters have to do the work of 45 sounds; and that, of these 26 letters, only 8 are faithful to their work.

The first thing to do, is to give the child a stock of the simplest words—words that contain only true letters. Contradictions, like **go** and **do**; like **sew** and **toe**; like **weight** and **wait**; must for some time be kept out of sight.

It will be observed that, in the first line of his first lesson, the child has only **five letters** given him; though he has also **five words.** And each letter in these words is true both to ear and eye.

In this little book, ART comes, to fix the child's attention; SCIENCE, to guide his steps. Pictures—words in the pictures—words out of the pictures—words in sentences: this is the first **Ladder to Learning!**

The only advice to be given to the young Teacher is: **Teach only words; and teach them as wholes! Never mention the name of a letter, unless the child demands it!**

When the child demands the name of the letter, give him first its **power**; and let him look carefully at the **shape** your lips make. Call **b**, *bĕ*; **d**, *dĕ*; **w**, *wĕ*, *wè*, and so on. Then **contrast!** Thus, *fĕ* will be contrasted with *pĕ* and with *bĕ*, in the first lesson.

The words in this book are his **NEW ALPHABET**; and they are also a **True Alphabet!** For they are a true beginning.

If, further, the teacher tells the story in each picture, and **points** to the word whenever she has occasion to mention it, the form of the word will impress itself forcibly on the child's eye.

Everything else will come quite easily!

A B C D E
F G H I J
K L M N
O P Q R S
T U V W
X Y Z

fat Pat and his cat
sat bat
mat hat rat
cat at rat
rat hat

Pat. fat Pat. a bat.
Pat and his bat.
a cat. Pat and his cat.

Pat sat. Pat sat on the mat.
a cat. Pat. a hat. a rat.
Pat's hat. Pat's hat is off.
the cat sees the rat.
the rat sees the cat.

run, rat, run!
the rat ran. he ran off.
the cat ran. run, cat!
fat Pat falls flat.

---

hat fat	mat rat	cat
cat flat	Pat sat	catch

cat catch
hat
Pat
ha!
!
nap

cat! catch the rat!
the rat ran into the hat.
the rat is in the hat!
he is in Pat's hat!

lift the hat, Pat.
the rat is in the hat.
O, no! the rat is off!
look, Pat! look, cat!
no rat! what! no rat!

a nap. Pat has a nap.
the cat has a nap.
Pat and the cat have a nap.

cat	mat	nap	sees
what	rat	lap	bees

fan
pan
fan
pan
ran
pan
pan-
cake
fan
pan

a fan. a pan.
a pan and a fan.
a lady. her fan.
a cook. her pan.
a book for the cook.

a pan. a cake. a pancake.
a pancake in the pan.
the pan is a big pan.
cook! toss the cake!
cook! catch the cake!

fat	fan	map	man
pat	pan	pap	pan
rat	ran	rap	ran

book cook look

ap
map
tap
cap
pap
lap
lap nap

a map. a ball. tap the ball!
do not tap the map!
look at the map!

baby. mamma. her cap.
lap. baby in her lap.
a cap. mamma's cap.
baby sits in her lap.
baby tugs at her cap.
he sits on her lap.
he tugs at her cap.

baby has a nap.
the cat laps the milk.

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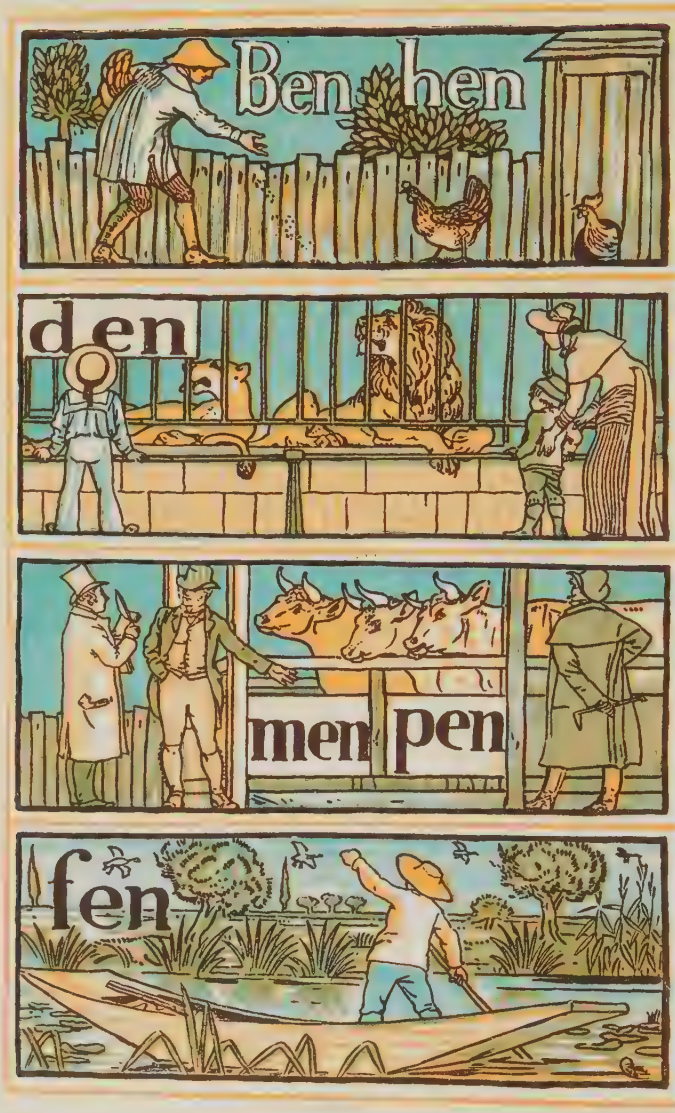
map	map	cap	tug	sit
tap	nap	lap	tugs	sits


Ben hen
den
men pen
fen

Ben. a hen. two hens.
Ben, feed the hens!
Ben feeds the hens.

a lion. a den.
a lion in the den.
look at the lion!

men. three men at a pen.
an ox. three oxen.
three oxen. three men.

a fen. a man. a boat.
a man in a boat.
a boat on the fen.

men	feed	boat	ox
fen	reed	coat	fox

a man. a net. men. nets.
the net has a fish.
the man gets the fish.

a lad. the lad and his pet.
Jack has a pet.
Jack and his pet Jacko.

Dick. ship. sail.
set the sail, Dick!
the sail of the boat is set.

Ned. the jet! the jet!
the jet made Sam wet.
Ned's jet made Sam wet.

get	net	set	sail	pail
jet	pet	wet	boat	coat

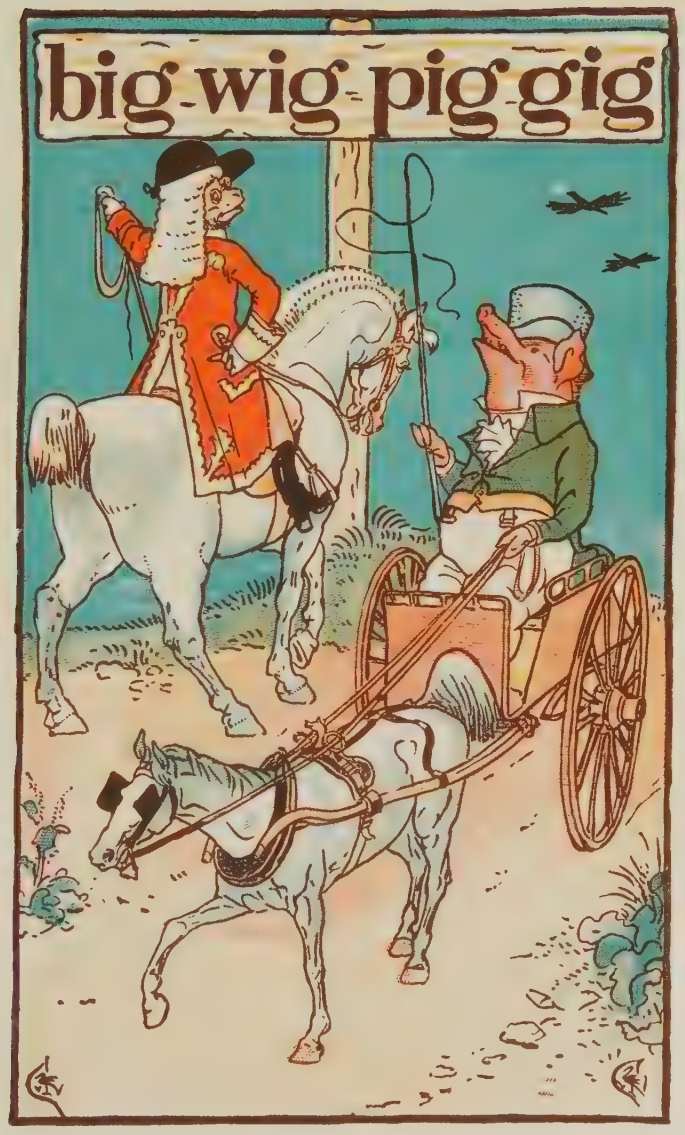
net
get
pet
set
jet
wet

a pig. a pig in a gig.
the pig is big.
a big pig in a gig.
a horse and a gig.
the horse is not big.

a dog. a dog in a wig.
a dog in a big wig.
the dog in the wig.
the dog on the big horse.
dog in a wig on a horse.

go on, piggie!
good-bye, doggie!

big	gig	on	good	food
pig	wig	off	look	book


big-wig-pig-gig

a bit. a bit for Sam.
see! he sits up for it.

will it fit? yes, it will fit.

Lucy has lit her candle.
it is lit to go to bed.

Dick. Dick's bat and ball.
hit! Dick, hit the ball!

Bob. Bob and his kitten.
milk for the kitten.

a mit. fit. the mit fits.
the mit fits Mary.
Mary's mit fits.

bit hit lit	can	kit
fit kit mit	candle	kitten

bit
fit
lit
hit
kit
mit

a hog. a hog and a dog.
a bag. the dog and his bag.
his bag and stick.

the dog and the hog set off.
a frog! a frog on a log!
the frog cries ho! a bog!
the dog in the bog.

the hog and dog in a fog.
can the hog and the dog see?
the hog can. the frog can.

bog	fog	hog	hark
dog	frog	log	bark

---

bag	rag	see	bee

hog dog
bog
log frog
fog

hop! hop! hop, Lucy, hop!
a top. Tom and his top.
Tom can spin his top.

Bob. Bob and his mop.
pop! Dick. a gun.
pop goes the gun!
the gun goes pop!

Jack. Jack and his dog.
a sop for the dog.
the dog gets the sop.
Joe. lop. Joe, lop the stick!
lop bits off the stick!

hop	pop	pin
lop	sop	spin

hop
top
op
mop
o
p
p
sop
l
op

baby. a cot. baby in it.
baby is in his cot.
he sits up in his cot.

a pot. Mary has a pot.
the pot is hot.

a cat. a spot. spots.
look at the cat on the rug!
look at the spots on her.
the cat has black spots.

a dot. two . . dots. a lot.
baby has a lot of letters.

cot	hot	lot
dot		spot
look	rug	letter
book	jug	better

cot hot
spot pot
d o t
l p t

a bun. Dick has a bun.

a book. Tom has a book.
the book is full of fun.

a gun. Jack has a gun.
Mab. run! Mab, run!
a bunny. the bunny runs!

Nell. the sun. the sun sets.
the sun sets. Nell has fun.

see, Bob, see the sun!
Bob sees the sun.

bun	run	fun	sun
see	bee	full	bull

bun
fun
gun
run
fun
sun

a man. the man cuts.
he cuts the wood.
a hut. a rut by the hut.
a child. two children.
a girl and two children.
nuts! nuts! nuts!
a bush. nuts on the bush.
a girl. a big girl.
the big girl pulls the nuts.
nuts for the children.
two girls and a boy.
a nut fell into the rut.

cut hut nut rut
child children

wood	pull	boy	fell
food	push	joy	bell

cut
hut
rut
nut

a b c d ε
f g h i j
k l m n o
p q r s t
u v w x y
z

Part
11

A B C D E
F G H I J
K L M N
O P Q R S
T U V W
X Y Z

ball
wall
tall
fall
squall
call

A call! a ball. a wall.
The maid calls.

The girl has a ball.
The ball is on the wall.

The man is tall.
The tall man has a tray.
Dick runs in his way.
Dick falls.

Look! Dick falls. Dick squalls.

He falls and squalls.
Jack. lift. hand.
Jack lifts his hand!

all	call	wall	tray
ball	fall	hall	way

band
land
hand
strand
sand
stand
wand

Band. sand. maid. maids.
A band of maids on the sand.
A band of mermaids.

Jack stands on the sand.
A little mermaid comes.
She holds him by the hand.
Come, Jack, come!
Come and be our lord!

A mermaid with a wand.
Jack comes. Jack. shell.
Jack has a shell for a hat.
Jack plays all day.
Jack plays on the sand.
Jack plays with the mermaid.

band	sand	hold	shell	play
land	stand	gold	bell	day

ass lass
grass glass

An ass. grass.
An ass in the grass.
An ass. a lass. a glass.
Look at the ass.
Look at the lass.
The lass sits on the grass.
The lass has a glass.
The lass has a glass
in her hand.
She looks in the glass.
Look at the lass with a glass.
On the grass by the ass.

ass	glass	sit	looks	hand
lass	grass	bit	books	band

well
fell
bell
tell

Well. fell. Jack and Jill.
Jack and Jill at the well.
Jack and Jill fell.

Jill. hill. Jill fell on the hill.
Her pail is off down the hill!

Bell. tell. Mrs. Fell. Tom.
Tom, run and tell Mrs. Fell!

Cat. stand. behind.
The cat stands behind her.
Ding dong bell!
Tom ran to tell Mrs. Fell.

bell	tell	pail	down
fell	well	sail	gown

edge
hedge
dredge
ledge
wedge
sedge

The edge. the edge of a rock.
A man with a gun.
Man on the edge of the rock.
A deer. a deer on the ledge.
The man will shoot the deer.

A man. a log. a mallet.
A wedge. the mallet hits.
The mallet hits the wedge.

A boat. a man in a boat.
Dredge, man, dredge for eels!
Sedge. tall sedge.
The boat is by the tall sedge.

edge	hedge	sedge	coat
dredge	ledge	wedge	boat

e n t e n t e n t e n
bent
sent
went
spent
rent
tent
e n t e n t e n t e n t

Ned. bow. Ned bent his bow.

Arrow. Ned sent off his arrow.

Bow bent; arrow went.

Pick. Ned went to pick it up.

Spent. Ned has spent all his arrows.

Target. the target is rent.

Ned is off to his tent.

Arrows spent; target rent;
Ned went to the tent.

bent	sent	tent	pick	it
rent	spent	went	sick	sit

hill
till
bill
kill
fill
rill

A hill. an ox. two oxen.
The two oxen till the hill.

A bill. a bird with a bill.
The bird has a fish in its bill.
Will the bird kill the fish?
The bird will kill the fish.

Rose. Rose and her jug.
Rose has a jug in her hand.
Rose will fill her jug at the rill.
Fill the jug, Rose! fill it full.

bill	hill	mill	spill
fill	kill	rill	till

wing
bring
king
sing
string

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Birds on the wing!
A pie! a pie! bring the pie!
Bring the pie to the king!

Cut the pie! cut the pie!
The pie is cut!
The birds sing! sing! sing!
Sing on! sing to the king!
A dish to set before a king.

Three blackbirds.
A maid. a maid in a garden.
A string. five things on it.

bring sing wing	hive sang
king sting string	five hang

CHILDREN'S ROOM

Dick. Doll. Jack. Moll.
Blind me, Dick!
Blind *me*, Jack!
Dick blinds Doll!
Jack blinds Moll!
The girls are blinded.

Run, Dick! run, Jack!
Mind the bench!
Look out, you will fall!

Hal. Helen. a ball of silk.
They sit on the bench.
Hal, hold the silk!
Helen winds it.
She winds it into a ball.

silk	look	bind	mind
milk	cook	blind	wind

bind
blind
behind
find
mind
wind

An old man. a bold boy.
The boy has a gun.
March! quick march!

A dog. a man. the sheep.
The dog is cold.
The man has a lamb.
He has a lamb on his arm.

The sheep are in the fold.
The fold is on the wold.
It is cold on the wold.

A horse. a man. a farmer.
The horse is sold for gold.

old	bold	cold	fold
gold	sold	told	wold

bold
old
cold
wold
fold
gold
told
sold

The farmer sows the corn.
The farmer sows in the morn.

A priest. the priest is shorn.

A cock. a cock that crows.
He crows in the morn.
The sun is up. it is morn.
Cock crows. corn grows.

A maid. a maiden. a cow.
The cow with the . . . horn.
The man all . . . and torn.
The cow with the . . . horn.

corn morn torn	crows
horn shorn thorn	grows

co
rn
sh
orn
morn
co
rn
corn
morn
forlorn
horn
thorn
torn
h
or
n
for
lor
n
torn

Jump, Dick, jump!
Dick ran and jumped.

Tom fell on the ice.
A bump! a star on the ice!
Stump. stump along, Jack!
Stump on your wooden leg!

Harry and Lucy at the pump.
Pump, Harry, pump!

A lump. a lump of clay.
The man turns the lump
into an urn.

A man with a trumpet.

bump lump jump trump
pump clump stump trumpet

Jump. stump. bump. clump.
jump
stump
pump
lump
trump
lump. Pump. trump. trumpet

Turn ! turn ! turn, lad, turn !
Turn again, Dick——!

The king sat by the fire.
King Alfred sat by the fire.
Watch the cakes, king !
Turn them or they will burn !

The farmer's wife comes back.
See the cakes ! they burn.
What ! the cakes burn ! look !

Churn, girl ! she churns.
An urn. the girl sets the urn.

fire	watch	cake	urn turn
tire	match	make	burn churn

turn
churn
urn
burn

l t i j r f
n m u h
v y w z x k
o a b d p q
o c ε s
A B C D E F G H
I J K L M N O P Q
R S T U V W X Y Z

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Meiklejohn, John Miller Dow.
The golden primer.

Crane, Walter - Illus.

7. If the child has a box of loose letters, let him make the words at the foot of the page with them. If he can print, let him copy them.

8. In repeating the words at the foot of the page, let the child strongly emphasize and **exaggerate** the sound of the **first letters** in each word, because these are the **new elements** he has to master. The common element—**at** or **and**, or **ut** or **ump**—he is sure to hold quite firmly.

9. In mentioning the letters, let their **powers**, not their **names**, be given. Thus, call **w**, *wĕ, wĕ* — like the first puffs of a locomotive going to start; **h**, not *aitch*, but *hă, hă;* **g**, not *gee*, but hard *gĕ;* and so on. Then trill **r-r-r** as much as you can; make **s-s-s** one long hiss. **Contrast** in all cases! Thus, hard **c** *(cĕ)* should be contrasted with *gĕ; mĕ* with *nĕ;* and so on.

10. Let the child count how many times the same words appear on each page.

11. When the child has fully mastered a page, give him an ordinary book — with **clear large** type—and let him **hunt** for the words he has already learned.

12. Let the child make—with his card-board letters —or print the nouns in the plural.

13. Let him find out as many new words as he can, that rhyme with those he has learned.

J. M. D. MEIKLEJOHN

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